

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-51. (Canceled).

52. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor device, comprising:

a longitudinal axis;

a distal ring;

a proximal assembly including a first member having a radially inner portion and a radially outer portion, and a second member having a radially inner portion and a radially outer portion, the second member including a plurality of interconnected segments which are independently movable to facilitate localized release of the sleeve; and

a wound retracting sleeve extending at least between the distal ring and the proximal assembly and slidably received between the radially outer portion of the first member and the radially inner portion of the second member.

53. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the sleeve is a generally cylindrical sleeve.

54. (Canceled).

55. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a securing portion configured to fix the sleeve at a desired axial length between the distal ring and the proximal assembly.

56. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 55, wherein the securing portion includes formations on the second member configured to receive a portion of the sleeve.

57. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein at least a portion of the first member is located within a recess of the second member.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim ~~58~~ 52, wherein the segments are manually manipulable between a clamped rest position and a release position.

60. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the distal ring is of resilient material.

61. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the distal ring is an O-ring.

62. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein at least a portion of the proximal assembly includes a material with a low coefficient of friction.

63. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 62, said material with a low coefficient of friction is polytetrafluoroethylene.

64. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a sealing device coupled to the proximal assembly so as to allow the wound retractor to be used in laparoscopic surgery.

65. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 64, wherein the sealing device includes a hand access device that extends across a central opening provided by the retractor.

66. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a capping device coupled to the proximal assembly, the capping device extending across a central opening provided by the retractor.

67-73. (Canceled).

74. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the first member includes a ring having a circular cross-section.

75. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 74, wherein the second member includes a ring shape.

76. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the radially outer portion of the first member is curved.

77. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the sleeve is fixed to the distal ring.

78. (Withdrawn) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a clamp to assist in securing the sleeve to the proximal assembly.

79. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor device, comprising:
a longitudinal axis;
a distal ring;
a proximal assembly including a first member having a radially outer portion, and a second member having a radially inner portion, the radially outer portion of the first member being located at least partially within a recess in the radially inner portion; and

a generally cylindrical wound retracting sleeve extending at least between the distal ring and the proximal assembly, through the proximal assembly between the radially outer portion of the first member and the radially inner portion of the second member, and proximally beyond the proximal assembly, a portion of the sleeve extending proximally beyond the proximal assembly forming a gripping portion for pulling the sleeve to shorten an axial length of the sleeve located between the distal ring and the proximal assembly.

80. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 79, wherein the distal ring is of resilient material.

81. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 79, wherein at least a portion of the proximal assembly includes polytetrafluoroethylene.

82. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 79, further including a sealing device coupled to the proximal assembly so as to allow the wound retractor to be used in laparoscopic surgery.

83. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The wound retractor as claimed in claim 82, wherein the sealing device is coupled to the proximal assembly via a snap-type engagement.